

**Crook County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting
February 17, 2004**

Members present: Larry Ellsbury, Gilbert Wilson, David Hurd, John Shoffstall, Wade Pearson, Deb Hougham, Ernie Reinhold, Nels Smith, Merle Clark

Forest Service members present: Steve Kozel- Designated Federal Official Representative, Joyce Speidel- recorder

Others present: Elvin Rush, Tim Lyons, and Susan Redding- Crook County Assessor

- 1) Committee Chairperson John Shoffstall opened meeting at 6:30 PM. Quorum was met in all categories.
- 2) Certificates and letters of appointment were handed out. Welcome to new members by Steve Kozel.
- 3) Minutes of the last meeting were sent out prior to this meeting. Mr. Shoffstall asked if anyone had any corrections or suggestions.
 - a) Nels would like to have inserted on third page, during the discussion of the restriping of the Warren Peak Highway that he disclosed that he has property listed on Warren Peak.
 - b) He would also like to have inserted during the same discussion that there was agreement from at least one other member based on previous experience on a different road.
 - c) **Nels/ Dave** moved that the **minutes** be so **amended. Motion carried.**
- 4) Balance report and State of the Forest Review report were handed out. No additions, corrections or questions regarding either report were heard.
- 5) New items of interest were brought before the membership.
 - a) Title III funding request letter from Crook County Fire Warden was handed out. The Crook County Commissioners are to notify this committee of proposed expenditure of Title III funds according to the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. Questions or comments on this request will be entertained at the end of this meeting.
 - b) Member meeting in Reno notification handed out with agenda. If a RAC wishes to send a member, the RAC can fund a delegate to go. If you wish to attend, let Steve know. If requesting Title II funds to defray expenses, it must come before the committee.
 - c) Open house for comment on Sundance Fuels Reduction Project and Bearlodge TruckTrail Fuelbreak scoping is planned for tomorrow, February 18, from 6 to 8 PM. An invitation was given to come in and talk to the respective project leaders.
- 6) Updates on previously funded projects were given. The updates are attached at the end of these minutes.
 - a) Warren Peak Highway- update from Ernie Nauman, project engineer.
 - b) Cement Ridge Lookout- update from Joe Hallenbeck, facilities engineer.
 - c) Williams Spring Excavation - update from Dave McKee, Historic preservation officer.
 - d) Youth Conservation Corp- update from Jeanette Timm, Forester.
 - e) Bearlodge Campground Improvements- update from Jeanette Timm, Forester.

- f) Redwater Phase 2- agreement has been completed and signed by the Commissioners.
- g) Manly Spring- Steve Kozel will be meeting with Eric Huseby concerning agreements and environmental analysis.
- h) Any questions concerning projects funded to date and the status of those projects? Will leave discussion open.
- 7) Revisit projects previously funded.
 - a) **Nels/Ernie** moved to bring all tabled items to the committee in bulk to be discussed now.
 - b) Steve K.- **Bearlodge Truck trail Fuelbreak-** USFS would like to **withdraw** this project **from consideration**. The USFS has adequate funding to complete.
 - c) Bearlodge Campground Bathrooms Project Proposal # 04-07- Nels supports the need for sanitary facilities, but wonders if it is economically feasible to put bathroom in at Bearlodge. Nels would like to see the bathroom removed from consideration. According to Jeanette's update, the Forest Service is planning on going forward with this project. Any allocation from the RAC would help, but is not necessary for this project to continue.
- 8) Ernie- with permission of the committee would like to hear what Mr. Rush and Mr. Lyons have to say about the addressing.
 - i) Elvin Rush gave an explanation of the project and reason for asking for funding. The estimated project cost is \$25,000 per year. Equipment is greatest need at this time. Elvin had been directed to check into a couple different grant avenues before he returned to this committee. He found that this project will not fit into block grant program; Homeland security grants will not be available until '05. Susan Redding and Tim Lyons came tonight to be available for questions. Susan stated that the commissioners do not want to further fund the project, and yet some kind of consistent addressing system will soon be required by statute. Money for any type of equipment has been cut from the budget. There is no commitment from the commissioner's to let this project go on beyond July 01, 2004. This project has been set aside and ignored for a number of years, it now needs fine tuned to address the growth and needs of this county. Ernie- Mr. Rush would like to see \$25,000 appropriated this year, what would happen to the money that we appropriated, if the project does not continue? Susan- project has been ongoing since 1995. Mapping materials etc. are currently available through County Assessor's office. Whatever funds are made available would help the office move toward efficiency. Elvin- the state of Wyoming is in the process of making it state law that rural addressing be done. Gib- Will funding be made available with the mandate? Merle- Is this project eligible for funding from the RAC? Steve K. addressed the question of benefit to National forest lands.... Rural addressing will be most helpful in cooperation in firefighting efforts and emergency response. From that standpoint, there is a benefit to the National Forest. It is not one of the traditional resource benefits, but it is a life, property thing. Susan- at this time we are not planning to sign within the forest, but the majority of the growth within the county is happening near the National Forest. Joe- seems like a marginal project for the RAC to

legitimately fund. The county really needs to be behind this project. County, State or Federal funds need to be accessed. The Forest Service is already signing within the forest. Merle- what is the total scope of the project? Elvin-\$100,000 over a four year project. This includes all the signs, installation, etc. State Forestry division has been contacted for funding. To be available for those funds the front step of every residence must be GPSed. John- Are there any other counties working toward rural addressing? Susan- Most other counties have the addressing done or at least ahead of Crook County in terms of rural addressing. Joe- Lawrence County made a mess of things. Naming of roads that had nothing to do with geographic locations. Susan- we have visited with Lawrence County concerning addressing. Basic blueprint has been set up. Joe- seems to have made things worse in Lawrence County. Dave- how soon until technology makes road signs obsolete? Susan- did not want to change addresses for those residents in the county, but some changes will have to be done. This is not postal addressing. 1985- US West made an agreement with the county to set up addresses. Addressing is usually done by a planning office. Gib- How do your materials compare to street signs in Sundance? Sign is similar, post is different. Elvin made presentation of materials. Steve K- Does this meet DOT specs? Elvin- yes, these meet DOT requirements. In DOT right of way, they have to be breakaway posts. Different colors signify different things. Currently working with DOT for permission to put signs in right of ways. Wade- Would \$25,000 get you started? **Ernie/ Deb moved to appropriate \$25,000 to Crook County Rural Addressing.** Discussion. Gib- what is included in the current Rural Addressing Budget? Elvin- my wages. No equipment. Only \$2300 left in budget above Elvin's wages. Merle- Is there an advantage to mapping without signing? Elvin- would like to sign as we go. Would do one section at time, map it and sign it then move on. Currently doing new requests exclusively. Have a lot of stuff that does not meet the rules and regulations for what we need to do. Some addressing was done backwards starting at the wrong end, placing the odd numbers on the wrong side of the road, etc. Would like to take it one section at a time. Big push right now is for equipment. Deb- biggest concern is that the county is not doing anything to help. Could we make it dependent upon the county participation? Nels- Can you get a utility hookup without an address? Susan- Yes. It is a telephone that you cannot get until you have an address. Nels-What are you doing right now to fix the problems with the addressing system? Tim – Corrections will be done concurrently on each road, so there will be continuity. Tim gave examples of problems and their resolutions. John- Are there funds in the budget for recording, affidavits, etc? Susan- nothing in the Assessor's budget at this time for recording. John- How will the re-naming of roads affect the landowner's records? If we go through this process how will we deal with these changes? Susan- after talking with County Attorney, ultimate plan is to take the rural addressing system and make the commissioner's records match the addressing system. Rural addressing is not perfect, but it is what the county has to deal with. These are minor problems. John- we have a motion

for \$25,000. Further discussion. Gib- the county should be leading the way. It grieves me that they aren't taking the lead on this project. Nels- I am concerned that we only have \$32,000 left. Cook Lake Trail and Bearlodge Campground bathroom have funding, but would like to have the cooperation of the RAC. The drivable dip is not to a point to really discuss the particulars. **Nels- amend motion** appropriated for a 50% match of actual appropriated dollars over and above what the county has otherwise allocated. John- County has not appropriated anything. Nels- The County should be on the wagon. There is merit to this proposal, but there is also merit to say that there is no reason to put money into something that the county is not willing to fund. Ernie to Merle- Is there that much discretionary money in the budget? Merle- You have to pick and choose. The county has put into place the personnel, and \$5000 would get the ball rolling. There will be nothing new added to the budget until July first. Nels- having not received a second, I will pull my first amendment for the matching of appropriated dollars. **Nels- move to amend the motion to strike \$25,000 and insert \$5000 to the motion. Gib seconded. Joe- Does that include 50% matching? No. \$5000 straight out. Discussion. Motion carried.** One opposition. Main motion still on the floor. We need to clear the floor. **Remove first motion from the floor. Motion carried.** Elvin asked if they could keep this money separate from the County budget? Governing body will need to sign agreement probably John Twiss and the County Commissioners. Steve K.- Does the Assessor's office or you, Mr. Rush have signatory authority? Agreements will need to be signed. Elvin asked about a time line. Steve K.- Optimistically, a month. Realistically, maybe two months. Agreement could state a time limit for use of funds. We will need some kind of accounting. Anything that is not expended by the end of the agreement, will need to have an extension of agreement, or returned to the committee.

- b) **Joe/ Ernie** Accept \$28,000 project proposal to complete **Cook Lake trail**. Discussion. **Motion carries.** One opposition.
- c) There were no members of the public for the public forum.
 - i) Steve used the time available to discuss with the committee that the current legislative session gave the Forest Service 'stewardship authority'. We would be able to retain receipts from the sale of commercial products sold from a particular project site within the Bearlodge and reinvest those receipts into the same project site. As part of this new authority, we have to collaborate and discuss with different groups. This process helps to set up priorities and reinvest funds. The project area identified in the Bearlodge Ranger District is in the Rattlesnake Canyon area. The District is planning harvest, thinning and fuels reduction work. There will also be rehab, road maintenance and road closures. The District will be using commercial timber sale as revenue generator. Approximately \$30 to 40,000 will be made available from the timber sale. The Bearlodge Ranger District will be sending letters to this body requesting input. The Stewardship Authority is different from the authority granted to the Resource Advisory Committee, but the District would like to receive input from the RAC. Overhead will not be drawn from the revenue

generated. The revenue actually has to be spent on the ground and in the project area.

- ii) Merle Clark spent some time discussing the Moskee Road and the need for maintenance. Moskee road is an old road and it has been relaid. Because of the resurfacing, the road has narrowed and is not currently eligible for federal dollars. A road widening project would create an opportunity to apply for federal dollars. This widening, along with federal and county appropriations, could help to make more money available. This road should be considered when we think of hauling for timber sales. The width is the limiting factor for the consideration of federal funds. The Moskee road is a county road. It was paved originally as a dust control measure. Paving costs are approximately \$100,000 per mile. The road will need to be widened about 4 feet on each side, paved 2 feet per side, and then a cap put over the top. Steve will look into state and federal funding.
- 9) RAC funding will run out in '06. Approximately \$130,000 will be available to the RAC before the current authority is terminated. Next appropriation will be in October '04.
- 10) Money has been expended, is there a need for a meeting next month? **Ernie/ Wade** moved to meet again in **September**. The Chairman reserves the right to call special meetings, if the need arises. **Motion carries.**
- 11) Joyce will provide project status updates once every three months. (May and August).

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Speidel